

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 IO-13 (ISO)W

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O R 021805Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3362

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: GOZ DISPLAYS COMMUNIST ARMS TO
DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA CALLED MEETING MAY 2 OF CHIEFS OF
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FOR PURPOSE OF SHOWING THEM COMMUNIST ARMS AND
AMMUNITION ALLEGEDLY PICKED UP DURING RECENT SHABA OPERATIONS.
ALL AMBASSADORS SEEMED TO BE THERE, EXCEPT SOVIET (WHO REPORTEDLY
WAS NOT INVITED) AND THE EAST GERMAN (WHO EARLIER IN THE DAY HAD
BEEN GIVEN 48 HOURS TO GET OUT OF TOWN). INTERNATIONAL AND
DOMESTIC PRESS REPRESENTATIVES COVERED THE MEETING.

2. BEFORE DISPLAYING THE CAPTURED ARMS, NGUZA MADE LENGTHY STATE-
MENT IN WHICH HE ZEROED IN ON THE SOVIETS AS MAIN CULPRITS IN SHABA
AFFAIR. AFTER TAKING TO TASK THE CUBANS AND ANGOLANS FOR THEIR
COMPLICITY IN SHABA ATTACK, NGUZA SAID THAT GOZ WAS NOW SUSPENDING
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ITS RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY BECAUSE OF CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ITS
INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORM OF EAST GERMAN ARMS CAPTURED ON THE
SHABA BATTLEFIELD. HOWEVER, NGUZA LEVELED MOST OF HIS FIRE ON THE
SOVIETS THEMSELVES. HE SAID IT WAS CLEARLY CONTRARY TO THE
PRINCIPLES OF BOTH THE OAU AND UN CHARTERS FOR THE SOVIET UNION,
WHO ENJOYED FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, TO SUPPORT
ARMED AGGRESSION WHICH WAS AVOWEDLY DESIGNED TO OVERTHROW ZAIRIAN

GOVERNMENT. THE SOVIETS KEEP SAYING THAT SHABA IS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM AND THAT THEY ARE NOT IN ANY WAY INVOLVED. IF THAT IS SO, NGUZA ASSERTED, THEN MOSCOW SHOULD LET ZAIRE ALONE. QUANTITIES OF SOVIET ARMS CAPTURED IN SHABA CLEARLY REVEALED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE IN FACT INTERVENING IN WHAT THEY FALSELY LABELED AN "INTERNAL AFFAIR".

3. NGUZA ALSO HAD PRIASE FOR THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT AND REITERATED THE GOZ'S ASSURANCES THAT IT WAS WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH LUANDA WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE INDICATED ZAIRE WOULD DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF THOSE RELATIONS SO LONG AS IT WAS NOT ASKED TO NEGOTIATE ZAIRE'S UNITY OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

4. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS TALK, NGUZA MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE ENDED, HOWEVER, BY RECITING AN OLD CHINESE PROVERB TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS OFTEN THE THIEF HIMSELF WHO HOLLERS "THIEF" THE LOUDEST. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT ABLE TO HIDE HIS PLEASURE AND WAS THE FIRST IN LINE TO INSPECT THE SOVIET ARMS.

5. NGUZA THEN LED THE ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATS INTO AN ADJOINING ROOM WHERE SEVERAL DOZEN CASES OF GRENADES, MINES, AND AMMUNITION WERE ON DISPLAY. MOST BORE SOVIET MARKINGS, WHILE A SMALLER QUANTITY WAS LABELED AS OF EAST GERMAN ORIGIN. ONE CASE OF GRENADES WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR AS OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN.

6. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS THE LATEST ELEMENT IN THE GOZ'S
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CONTINUING EFFORT TO DRAMATIZE THE SHABA INVASION AS AN ACT OF ARMED AGGRESSION SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIETS AND THEIR COMMUNIST FRIENDS. FROM BEGINNING TO END THE SOVIETS WERE THE TARGET OF NGUZA'S HARSH ACCUSATIONS. THE QUESTION THAT OF COURSE IMMEDIATELY CAME TO MIND -- AND WAS THE SUBJECT OF MUCH SURMISE AMONG MY COLLEAGUES -- WAS WHETHER THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO SUSPEND RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. WHAT WITH THE GOZ HAVING TAKEN THAT STEP TODAY WITH THE EAST GERMANS ON THE BASIS OF CAPTURED ARMS, IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL THAT THE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE MATERIEL EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WOULD SIGNAL MOBUTU'S INTENTION TO ASK THE SOVIETS TO LEAVE AS WELL. LOGIC, HOWEVER, DOES NOT ALWAYS PREVAIL IN THIS COUNTRY.
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